

19, 2021). The output of this scaling, where appropriate, is incorporated into an adjusted total take estimate that is the basis for NMFS' small numbers determinations, as depicted in Table 1.

This product is used by NMFS in making the necessary small numbers determinations, through comparison with the best available abundance estimates (see discussion at 86 FR 5322, 5391; January 19, 2021). For this

comparison, NMFS' approach is to use the maximum theoretical population, determined through review of current stock assessment reports (SAR; www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/marine-mammal-stock-assessments) and model-predicted abundance information (<https://seamap.env.duke.edu/models/Duke/GOM/>). For the latter, for taxa where a density surface model could be

produced, we use the maximum mean seasonal (*i.e.*, 3-month) abundance prediction for purposes of comparison as a precautionary smoothing of month-to-month fluctuations and in consideration of a corresponding lack of data in the literature regarding seasonal distribution of marine mammals in the GOM. Information supporting the small numbers determinations is provided in Table 1.

TABLE 1—TAKE ANALYSIS, URSA LOA

Species	Authorized take	Scaled take ¹	Abundance ²	Percent abundance
Rice's whale	0	n/a	51	n/a
Sperm whale	1,650	698.1	2,207	31.6
<i>Kogia</i> spp	³ 611	218.5	4,373	5.0
Beaked whales	7,197	726.9	3,768	19.3
Rough-toothed dolphin	1,237	354.9	4,853	7.3
Bottlenose dolphin	5,760	1,653.1	176,108	0.9
Clymene dolphin	3,439	987.1	11,895	8.3
Atlantic spotted dolphin	2,339	671.3	74,785	0.9
Pantropical spotted dolphin	15,608	4,479.4	102,361	4.4
Spinner dolphin	4,182	1,200.3	25,114	4.8
Striped dolphin	1,343	385.5	5,229	7.4
Fraser's dolphin	394	113.1	1,665	6.8
Risso's dolphin	1,010	297.9	3,764	7.9
Melon-headed whale	2,306	680.4	7,003	9.7
Pygmy killer whale	538	158.7	2,126	7.5
False killer whale	856	252.5	3,204	7.9
Killer whale	7	n/a	267	2.6
Short-finned pilot whale	667	196.8	1,981	9.9

¹ Scalar ratios were applied to "Authorized Take" values as described at 86 FR 5322, 5404 (January 19, 2021) to derive scaled take numbers shown here.

² Best abundance estimate. For most taxa, the best abundance estimate for purposes of comparison with take estimates is considered here to be the model-predicted abundance (Roberts *et al.*, 2016). For those taxa where a density surface model predicting abundance by month was produced, the maximum mean seasonal abundance was used. For those taxa where abundance is not predicted by month, only mean annual abundance is available. For the killer whale, the larger estimated SAR abundance estimate is used.

³ Includes 33 takes by Level A harassment and 578 takes by Level B harassment. Scalar ratio is applied to takes by Level B harassment only; small numbers determination made on basis of scaled Level B harassment take plus authorized Level A harassment take.

Based on the analysis contained herein of Shell's proposed survey activity described in its LOA modification request and the anticipated take of marine mammals, NMFS finds that small numbers of marine mammals will be taken relative to the affected species or stock sizes and therefore is of no more than small numbers.

Authorization

NMFS has determined that the level of taking for the LOA modification request is consistent with the findings made for the total taking allowable under the incidental take regulations and that the amount of take authorized under the modified LOA is of no more than small numbers. NMFS has modified the LOA to Shell authorizing the take of marine mammals incidental to its planned survey activity, for the reasons described above.

Dated: February 25, 2022.

Kimberly Damon-Randall,
Director, Office of Protected Resources,
National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2022-04449 Filed 3-2-22; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Programmatic Environmental Assessment and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact Regarding Iron Dome Defense System—Army

AGENCY: Department of the Army, Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Notice of Availability.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Army (Army) announces the availability of a Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) and a Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) regarding the proposed fielding of two

Iron Dome Defense System—Army (IDDS-A) batteries. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the PEA analyzes the potential environmental impact of IDDS-A at each candidate-installation. That is, the PEA analyzes the potential environmental impact of the additional soldiers, materiel, and training that are required to field IDDS-A. The Proposed Action would enhance the defensive capability of fixed and semi-fixed assets against aerial threats.

DATES: Comments must be received by April 4, 2022 to be considered in finalizing the PEA and Draft FONSI.

ADDRESSES: Please mail comments to U.S. Army Environmental Command, ATTN: IDDS-A Public Comments, 2455 Reynolds Road, Mail Stop 112, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234-7588, or email comments to usarmy.jbsa.imcom-aec.mbx.nepa@army.mil with "IDDS-A Public Comments" in the subject line.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Cathy Kropp, U.S. Army Environmental

Command Public Affairs Office, by email (usarmy.jbsa.imcom-aec.mbx.nepa@army.mil), by mail (U.S. Army Environmental Command, ATTN: Public Affairs, 2455 Reynolds Road, Mail Stop 112, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234-7588), or by phone (210-466-1590 or 210-488-6061).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the Proposed Action is to field two batteries of IDDS-A in fiscal year (FY) 2022 and improve the defense of fixed and semi-fixed sites (e.g., airfields and forward operating bases). IDDS-A would enhance the Army's capacity to defend against attacks from aircraft, cruise missiles (CM), unmanned aerial systems (UAS), and rocket, artillery, and mortar (RAM) fire. The Army has been developing an air defense system for years, but it is not yet ready to deploy. The Proposed Action ensures compliance with Section 112 of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2019 (Pub. L. 115-232), which requires the Army to deploy an interim missile defense capability while the Army continues to develop an enduring solution. After evaluating existing air defense systems, the Army chose IDDS-A as the interim capability. This capability is part of an air and missile defense modernization strategy that seeks to improve systems across the air defense portfolio.

IDDS-A is a mobile, all-weather, air defense system designed to intercept RAM threats fired from distances of up to 70 km. It is also effective against CM, UAS, airplane, and helicopter threats. Each IDDS-A battery would consist of approximately 60 soldiers, 13 heavy expanded mobility tactical trucks, six missile-firing units, one radar system, battle management and communications systems, and support equipment. All soldiers would be outfitted with a standard set of small arms and equipment. Since IDDS-A is an interim solution, the Army does not intend to construct additional office space, maintenance space, barracks, or training ranges in support of IDDS-A at this time.

The Army considered multiple locations at which existing temporary or

permanent infrastructure can accommodate IDDS-A units and at which training can be accomplished through live fire or approved simulations. These installations met a number of mission-related screening criteria. The Action Alternative is to field the IDDS-A batteries at one or two of seven installations: Fort Bliss, TX; Fort Hood, TX; Fort Campbell, KY; Fort Riley, KS; Fort Sill, OK; Fort Stewart, GA; and Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA.

The PEA analyzes the potential environmental impact associated with the Proposed Action at each assessed installation, including direct, indirect, and cumulative effects. The Army did not conduct a detailed analysis of socioeconomic impacts because relative to the assessed installations' respective populations, the IDDS-A batteries represent a small percentage of total personnel. The PEA takes into account minimization measures, standard procedures, and best practices routinely employed by the relevant installations to mitigate the adverse effects of similar actions.

The PEA also studied a No-Action Alternative. While the No-Action Alternative would not satisfy the purpose of or need for the Proposed Action, it provides a comparative baseline against which to examine the effects of the Proposed Action and the Action Alternative.

Resources considered in the PEA include biological resources, cultural resources, water resources, soils, land use/compatibility, and facilities. Based on the PEA's findings, the Army expects the environmental impact of the Proposed Action at all assessed installations to be less than significant (i.e., negligible or minor).

Government agencies, Native American Tribes, and the public are invited to review and comment on the PEA and Draft FONSI. The public comment period begins with publication of this Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register** and lasts for 30 days. The PEA and Draft FONSI are available on the U.S. Army Environmental Command website at <https://aec.army.mil/>

[index.php?CID=352](https://aec.army.mil/index.php?CID=352). If you cannot access the PEA and Draft FONSI online, please request a hard copy by contacting U.S. Army Environmental Command by email (usarmy.jbsa.imcom-aec.mbx.nepa@army.mil), by mail (U.S. Army Environmental Command, ATTN: Public Affairs, 2455 Reynolds Road, Mail Stop 112, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234-7588), or by phone (210-466-1590 or 210-488-6061).

The Army will consider all timely public comments and will thereafter issue either a Final FONSI or a Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement. Comments must be received or postmarked by April 4, 2022 to be considered.

James W. Satterwhite, Jr.,

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

[Transmittal No. 21-0F]

Arms Sales Notification

AGENCY: Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Arms sales notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Defense is publishing the unclassified text of an arms sales notification.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Neil Hedlund at neil.g.hedlund.civ@mail.mil or (703) 697-9214.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This 36(b)(5)(C) arms sales notification is published to fulfill the requirements of section 155 of Public Law 104-164 dated July 21, 1996. The following is a copy of a letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Transmittal 21-0F with attached Policy Justification.

Dated: February 25, 2022.

Aaron T. Siegel,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

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